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Volume 2 2008

# Perspectives

A RESOURCE FOR MONTANA'S WORKERS, EMPLOYERS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS



[www.montanastatefund.com](http://www.montanastatefund.com)

## Making the Internet Work Hard for Montana Businesses

New MSF sites offer more web resources to Montana businesses, and make safety a priority.

The Internet has become an ideal medium for a workers' compensation provider like MSF to communicate with our customers. But we took it a few steps further. This year, three new websites have given MSF customers and associates a variety of channels for current, easy-to-use information and business functions.

**A fresh new look and feel for [montanastatefund.com](http://montanastatefund.com).** Our home site has been redesigned from the ground up. The new design not only puts a fresh face on our organization, it also makes crucial workers' comp information easier to find, read, download and use. Here you'll find useful resources, forms, and links without the hassle. You can register for your own secure user ID and password to view your specific account information, report your payroll and fill out First Report of Injury Forms right from your desktop.

### Establishing a culture of safety.

It's our belief that with a special dedication to workplace safety education directed at Montana's employers, we can help establish a true culture of safety for all Montana. That's why we created a special website for workplace safety ([www.safemt.com](http://www.safemt.com)). It offers a complete set of practical safety tips, useful resources and convenient forms, in addition to an interesting review of Montana's workplace safety issues and their effects on the economy and your bottom line. Visit it today, and see how a dedicated safety effort can improve your workplace.

**Young worker safety, in the language of the young worker.** Nearly 1,000 Montanans between 16 and 24 are injured on the job each year. A stat like this calls for a fast response and a statewide effort to protect our young workforce. The No Jack campaign ([see www.nojack.net](http://www.nojack.net)) is a multiple media vehicle that delivers a crucial safety message to Montana's young employees. Rather than re-state the importance of safety via traditional TV and print media, the campaign initiates a dialogue with young Montanans mainly through online channels. Banner ads and humorous viral movie clips—filmed in the style of MTV's popular Jackass series—direct web traffic to [www.nojack.net](http://www.nojack.net), where they find more videos with young workers doing stupid stunts. Each video concludes with a serious message: "Don't be a jackass. At work." In addition to inviting users to enter the now-ended sweepstakes for a free Nintendo® Wii™ game system (see next page), the site also provides important safety information, free ringtones, and real life stories of injured young workers.



## Wii Game Systems Given to Four Lucky nojack.net Visitors



Nicole Nolte of Missoula was one of four Montana residents who won a Nintendo® Wii™ game system as a part of our **nojack.net** young worker safety campaign. In this effort to raise awareness, the other big winners were Joshua Lords of Moiese, Tyler Sampson of Belgrade, and Cari Ostberg of Fairfield. More important, the site itself was a rousing success, garnering more than 6,200 hits in four weeks and delivering the Montana State Fund safety message throughout Montana.

## Getting an employee back to work? Get on the web first.

*MSF's Return To Work website offers tips, forms, kits and more.*

Getting your injured employee back on the job as soon as it's medically appropriate is important for both productivity and morale. That's where an effective Return to Work (RTW) program can help. By simply visiting [www.returntoworkmt.com](http://www.returntoworkmt.com), you'll learn about why an RTW program is important, how many Montana businesses have used it to their advantage, and how easy it can be to set up.

## Web Resources for Montana Workplaces, from Montana State Fund

Montana State Fund

Work Hard. Be Safe.

Young Worker Safety

Return To Work

[www.montanastatefund.com](http://www.montanastatefund.com)

[www.safemt.com](http://www.safemt.com)

[www.nojack.net](http://www.nojack.net)

[www.returntoworkmt.com](http://www.returntoworkmt.com)

A screenshot of the Montana State Fund website, "Montana State Fund". The header features the "MONTANA STATE FUND" logo with a stylized "SF" icon. Below the logo, the tagline "WORK HARD. BE SAFE." and "THE RESOURCE FOR SAFETY IN MONTANA'S WORKPLACES." are displayed. A search bar and a "SEARCH THIS SITE &gt;&gt;" button are on the right. The main content area includes sections for "UPCOMING SAFETY WORKSHOPS" (listing dates like Sep 05, Helena - Red Lion, Sep 10, Missoula - Grand Creek Inn, etc.), "LOST DAYS: WHERE ARE WE SLIPPING?" (with a pie chart showing industry distribution: Retail 14%, Health Care 20%, Other 40%, Natural Resources 26%), and "3 THINGS YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW" (list: 1. Reset your workstation, 2. Check your surroundings, 3. Start a safety committee). On the right, there's a sidebar for "MY INDUSTRY" with links for Agriculture, Construction, Government, Health Care &amp; Social Services, Leisure &amp; Hospitality, Manufacturing, Natural Resources, Professional Services, Retail, and Transportation. A speech bubble says "HOW CAN I REDUCE MY WORKERS' COMP PREMIUM?" and "ASK OUR EXPERT.". At the bottom, there's a section for "DO YOU EMPLOY young workers?" with a link to "Get a whole website's worth of young worker safety education, right here. &gt;&gt;&gt;".

# A Brighter Future *How MSF scholarships help families.*

Adam Schuff is a 21-year-old senior at The University of Montana. Next spring he will receive a degree in fine arts with an emphasis on lighting design.

Adam's interest in the arts began at an early age while growing up in Great Falls. He started out as a musician. As a result, he learned to run sound and went into stagecraft in high school. Adam learned about career options when he entered college, but he says his love of music was something he got from his dad, Bill.

Bill Schuff died in a work related accident when Adam was just four years old. His mom, Colleen, was left to raise young Adam and his three-month old brother, Jacob. Though Colleen admits the years since her husband's death have been financially tight, she always knew her boys were destined for higher learning and impressed upon them the importance of an education. Adam took this advice to heart and worked hard to get exceptional grades. When it came time to apply for college, he and Colleen put a lot of time and effort into finding money.

Colleen explains that the last scholarship they applied for was from Montana State Fund. "It was a blessing at the last minute. We were jumping for joy. Then we found out it was a four year scholarship, and we were even more excited."

**What is the MSF Scholarship Program?** Assisting spouses and dependents of workers who are fatally injured in a work-related accident is the Montana State Fund's scholarship program's primary goal. These cash awards can be used for higher education and training programs. Recipients are eligible to receive up to \$2,000 per academic year. Funds are available for the award year plus up to three renewable years, with a maximum cumulative award of \$8,000. To remain eligible for the scholarships, recipients must maintain a 2.0 GPA. The program is administered by the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program. Since the program began in 2002, MSF has helped 26 Montana families achieve their goals in higher education.

**Happy endings.** "The scholarship has been vital to my education," says Adam. "My studies are very important to me, and this scholarship has enabled me to spend more time studying, concentrating on my future, and less time working for a paycheck." It's music to Colleen's ears (and ours), and she now looks forward to seeing Adam's little brother, Jacob, go to college in 2010.

## Off to College this Fall

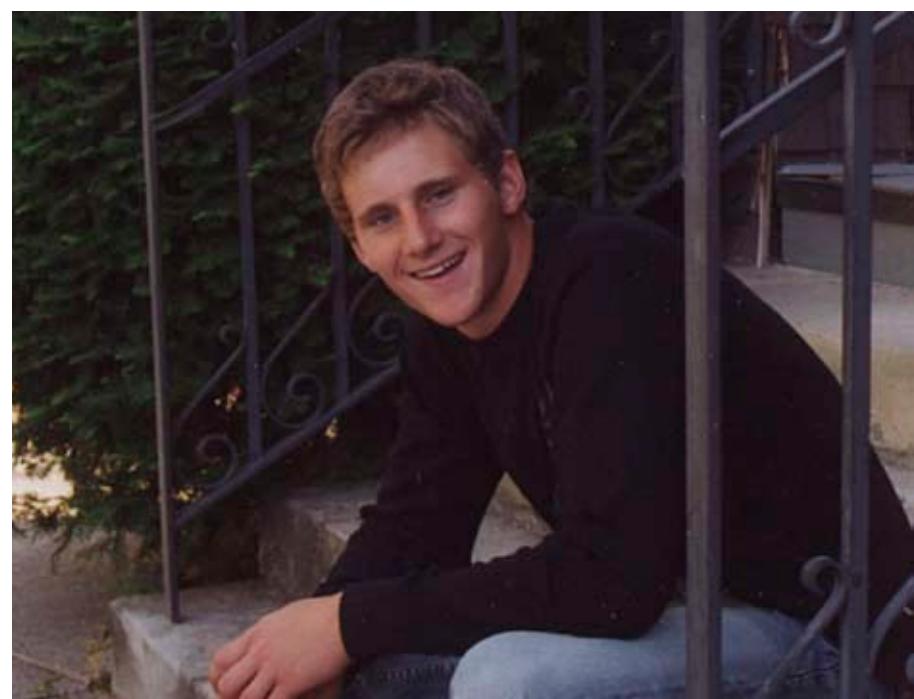
*Recent scholarship recipient Callan McKinley gives thanks.*

Dear Montana State Fund,

*Thank you very much for choosing me as a recipient for the Montana State Fund scholarship. I will be attending Crown College in Minnesota this fall. This scholarship will assist me greatly in meeting my tuition needs. I appreciate it very much.*

Sincerely,

Callan McKinley  
Chester, MT



*MSF scholarship recipient Callan McKinley is one of four McKinley children who have received an MSF scholarship.*

## Learn More

Need more details on the MSF scholarship program?  
Visit [www.montanastatefund.com](http://www.montanastatefund.com) and click About MSF – Scholarships.



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or e-mail [bmcgregor@montanastatefund.com](mailto:bmcgregor@montanastatefund.com)

[Safety Seminars](#)  
800-332-6102  
Extension 7048 (Rita Naylor)

## Conference Save-the-Date *Eighth annual medical conference in November.*

Join us Friday, November 21, 2008, for our annual medical conference, "Low Back Pain: Diagnosis and Treatment." This all-day event will take place at Helena's Park Plaza Hotel. Physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, physical and occupational therapists, medical case managers, vocational rehabilitation specialists, and claims' examiners are encouraged to attend. For registration information, please go to [www.montanastatefund.com](#) (Events and Workshops) or contact Bridget McGregor at 800-332-6102, extension 6595, or e-mail [bmcgregor@montanastatefund.com](mailto:bmcgregor@montanastatefund.com).

## Online With Our Employers' Needs *Upcoming safety workshops.*

Join our safety services team for our next round of free safety workshops *Get Online With Your Safety Program.*

### **Topics include:**

**Surfing Safely:** Are you looking for web resources that will give you quick, accurate answers for a safety issue or policy? This session will help you locate some of the most comprehensive and useful safety websites available today.

**Lift Your Safety Knowledge:** Back injuries are one of the most common injuries associated with lifting. Learn to reduce your risk and find out how you can easily evaluate employees' lifting tasks by using a lifting calculator.

**Sitting Pretty:** Many employees spend hours at their desks and computer or workstations. Learn how you can set up your employees with ergonomically designed workstations to keep them safe and productive.

All trainings take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon. To register, go to our website and click on Events and Workshops. If you have questions, call 800-332-6102 ext. 5892 (Bryan Page) or ext. 7048 (Rita Naylor).

## Dates and Locations

September 5	Helena	Red Lion Colonial Hotel
September 10	Missoula	Grant Creek Inn
September 11	Hamilton	Bitterroot River Inn
September 12	Kalispell	Outlaw Inn
September 16	Billings	Holiday Inn Grand Montana
September 17	Bozeman	Best Western GranTree Inn
September 23	Great Falls	Holiday Inn



*Bryan Page, Safety Services Specialist*